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CITY LIBRARY  
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# REPORT

OF THE

**SELECTMEN, AUDITORS,**

OVERSEERS OF THE POOR,

AND

SUPERINTENDING SCHOOL COMMITTEE,

OF THE

**TOWN OF LONDONDERRY,**

FOR THE YEAR ENDING

FEBRUARY 28, 1860.

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MANCHESTER, N. H.:

STEAM PRINTING WORKS OF HENRY A. GAGE & Co.

No. 85 Merchants' Exchange, Elm Street.

1860.



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352.07  
L84  
1860

## SELECTMEN'S REPORT.

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The amount of funds chargeable to the Treasurer for the year ending February 28, 1860, is	\$12768 14
To balance in Treasury Feb. 26, 1859.....	1814 24
balance of highway tax.....	1035 90
resident list of State, County, Town, and School tax.....	2711 89
non-resident list do.....	373 34
"      " of highway.....	185 38
resident " "	1352 82
list of school house tax District No. 8.....	247 55
received from State literary fund.....	153 16
County for support of paupers	266 34
State railroad tax.....	164 43
for use of Town house.....	1 00
tax from D. B. McClary.....	1 82
interest on Page note.....	42 66
" Surplus revenue fund	199 97
" Literary fund.....	48 25
principal of surplus revenue fund.....	3348 00
" Literary fund.....	821 39
	----- \$12768 14

The amount of expenditures for the year ending Feb. 28, 1860 is.....	\$6044 50
By paid outstanding orders of 1858-9.....	1405 81
resident highway tax of do.....	996 63
Schools and Institute.....	1306 00
School district.....	237 00
State and County tax.....	1233 47
Highways and bridges.....	130 19
Resident highway tax in labor.....	408 19
Non-resident " " "	79 26
Winter roads.....	108 77
Abatements on lists.....	114 50
Watering trough.....	3 00

Town note, and interest on orders and notes..	424	65
Lawsuit.....	92	50
Town officers.....	285	92
Incidental expenses.....	78	67
Pauper expenses.....	768	29
	7672	85
Outstanding orders of 1859-60.....	1628	35
	\$6044	50
Principal of surplus revenue fund.....	3348	00
“ literary fund.....	821	39
Balance of account.....	1609	62
“ highway tax.....	944	63
	6723	64
	\$12768	14

## DISBURSEMENTS.

## SCHOOLS AND INSTITUTE.

Paid School District No. 1.....	183	12
do do 2.....	170	59
do do 3.....	84	57
do do 4.....	116	07
do do 5.....	122	83
do do 6.....	66	34
do do 7.....	167	51
do do 8.....	175	36
do do 9.....	99	64
do do 10.....	27	10
do do 11.....	72	75
Rockingham Co. Teacher's Institute.....	20	12
	\$1306	00

## SCHOOL DISTRICT.

Paid Building Committee in District No. 8.....	237	00
	\$237	00

## STATE AND COUNTY TAX.

Paid State Treasurer.....	352	10
County Treasurer.....	881	37
	\$1233	47

## HIGHWAYS AND BRIDGES.

Paid Nathan Burnham for plank.....	1 89
Charles Adams, labor on Adams road.....	3 75
Horace Adams " " .....	3 75
Jonathan Savory " " .....	10 50
Jonathan Savory " on Stimpson road....	37 57
Charles Adams " " " .....	12 50
Horace Adams " " " .....	12 50
Samuel Crowell, Jr., for plank.....	3 36
Wm. Gregg, for timber and plank, Anderson bridge.....	14 32
John Annis, 2d, repair on bridge.....	2 00
Bela Kendall, stone for bridge.....	1 50
D. R. Leach, for cutting down a hill easterly of his house.....	26 55
	<hr/>
	\$130 19

## HIGHWAYS.

Paid resident highway tax for 1858.....	996 63
" " " 1859.....	408 19
	<hr/>
	\$408 19

## NON-RESIDENT HIGHWAY TAX IN LABOR.

Paid highway receipts for 1859.....	79 26
	<hr/>
	\$79 26

## WINTER ROADS.

Paid M. F. Dodge.....	13 90
J. P. Whidden.....	10 80
John Annis.....	6 00
Sampson Annis.....	3 25
M. P. Annis.....	1 60
David Gilcreast.....	1 20
J. M. Platts.....	5 60
L. H. Nesmith.....	8 00
J. H. Burbank.....	14 80
Daniel Manter.....	5 75
Walter Boyce.....	5 00
Elisha Smith.....	5 60
Charles E. Young.....	4 70

John Annis, 2d.....	4 70
John Gilcreast.....	5 72
Matthew Holmes.....	1 20
Joseph Dickey.....	3 00
M. H. Holmes.....	1 40
D. R. Leach.....	3 50
Daniel D. Smith'.....	3 05
	— \$108 77

## ABATEMENTS.

Paid M. Henry Holmes, on list 1856-7.....	10 49
L. H. Nesmith on list of 1858.....	30 72
"      "      "      1859.....	32 47
L. H. Nesmith on highway lists 1858.....	16 91
"      "      tax on town farm.....	18 85
"      "      tax of Mary J. Goodwin.....	5 06
	— \$114 50

## WATERING TROUGH.

Paid Thomas Patterson.....	3 00
	— \$3 00

## TOWN NOTE AND INTEREST.

Paid John Gilcreast principal and interest...	255 43
Treasurer interest on revenue fund notes....	98 18
F. D. Anderson, interest on Parish note....	8 40
S. C. Barker interest on Town orders to March 27, 1860.....	49 08
L. H. Nesmith, on orders.....	6 56
Treasurer, order drawn 1857.....	7 00
	— \$424 65

## LAWSUIT.

Paid Sawyer & Stevens.....	15 00
Sam'l N. Bell.....	77 50
	— \$92 50

## TOWN OFFICERS.

Paid Calvin Boyd, Moderator.....	4 00
D. R. Leach, Selectman.....	4 70
Matthew Holmes.....	6 72
B. F. Whorf. ....	4 13
L. H. Nesmith, Collector of taxes.....	50 00

M. H. Holmes, Town Clerk.....	17 00
John Dickey, Supt. School Com.....	21 00
R. C. Mack     "     "     " .....	17 00
W. J. Campbell.....	15 00
Montgomery Dickey, Treasurer.....	15 00
Jonathan Savory, select clerk.....	10 00
"     "     Selectman.....	52 53
John N. Anderson,     "     .....	31 74
Horace P. Watts.....	33 56
Robert Mack, Auditor.....	1 18
Thomas Patterson     "     .....	1 18
Reed P. Clark,     "     .....	1 18
	_____
	\$285 92

### INCIDENTAL EXPENSES.

Paid Charles E. Lane, insurance.....	3 58
Fisk & Gage, printing town reports.....	20 25
John N. Anderson, Col. County P. Money...	7 00
Geo. A. French, insuring Town house.....	13 25
B. D. Leighton, copy of Parker Deed.....	1 00
J. Savory, time and expense to Unity and Claremont on pauper business.....	13 00
B. F. Garvin, conveying Mrs. Richardson from depot to Almshouse.....	1 00
A. W. Mack, post for guide-board .....	1 50
M. Holmes, express bills.....	50
B. F. Whorf, settling pauper bill at Spring- field,.....	2 00
for Collector's Book, S. H. lists, stationery and postage.....	2 34
J. Savory, procuring order of notice from Judge of Probate vs. W. Pettingill.....	4 00
S. N. Bell, counsel.....	5 00
Wood for Town house.....	1 00
John Shipley, care of hearse &c.....	1 25
R. C. Mack, care of town house and repairs.	2 00
	_____
	\$78 67
Paid outstanding orders drawn 1858-9.....	\$1405 81
JONATHAN SAVORY, JOHN N. ANDERSON, HORACE P. WATTS	}
	SELECTMEN.

## REPORT OF THE OVERSEERS OF THE POOR.

## TOWN FARM AND PAUPERS.

Paid salary of Superintendent.....	275 00
Perkins & Dickey for wood.....	15 00
Wm. J. Campbell, medical attendance on J. Abbott.....	6 00
	_____
	\$296 00

## TOWN PAUPERS NOT AT ALMSHOUSE.

Paid Town of Claremont for John Richardson family prior to the first of March, 1860.	84 71
town of Chester for Amos Rolf.. .....	10 00
Dr. J. P. Whittemore " " .....	22 00
town of Unity for Crossman children.....	21 98
town of Claremont for John Richardson fam- ily to March 1, 1860.....	52 00
Hepzibah Richardson for Henry Richardson	31 20
city of Manchester, Wm. E. Robinson.....	7 25
for Mary R. Parker... - .....	129 65
Mary J. Goodwin for Amos Goodwin.....	31 20
	_____
	\$389 99

## COUNTY POOR NOT AT ALMSHOUSE.

Paid Washington Colby, supplies for S. Bancroft	52 23
Wm. Anderson " " "	22 72
Wm. J. Campbell to W. H. Martin.....	4 00
Washington Colby, supplies " .....	3 35
	_____
	\$82 30

LONDONDERRY, Feb. 28, 1860.

The undersigned, auditors of the town of Londonderry for the year ending Feb. 28, 1860, have examined the accounts of the Selectmen, and find the same methodically kept, correctly cast and properly vouched.

ROBERT MACK,  
THOMAS PATTERSON, } AUDITORS.  
REED P. CLARK.

## ALMSHOUSE REPORT.

## INVOICE OF STOCK AND PRODUCE, FEBRUARY 27, 1860.

10 tons No. 1 hay.....	160 00	40 lbs. Beef.....	2 40
4 " " 2 " ....	56 00	40 " Candles.....	5 60
Corn fodder.....	4 00	95 " Butter.....	20 90
1 Horse.....	70 00	40 " Lard.....	5 00
2 Oxen.....	130 00	35 " Fish.....	1 20
3 Cows.....	90 00	16 " Sugar.....	1 60
2 Heifers.....	50 00	6 " Saleratus....	42
4 Steers.....	90 00	2 " Tea.....	1 00
3 Shoats.....	33 00	3 " Coffee.....	36
25 bush. Corn.....	25 00	10 " Tobacco.....	1 00
20 " Oats .....	10 00	Spices, &c....	75
1½ " Beans.....	3 00	1 bbl. Flour.....	7 00
2 " Peas.....	3 00	3 " Cider.....	9 00
170 " Potatoes.....	68 00	5 " Apples.....	11 25
40 " Rutabagas....	12 00	1 " Soap.....	3 75
3 " Meal .....	3 00	66 Gal. Vinegar....	11 00
250 lbs. No. 1 Pork....	31 25	3 " Molasses...	1 00
200 " " 2 " ....	22 00	50 lbs. Dried Apple.	5 00
			\$948 48

## ALMSHOUSE IN ACCOUNT WITH THE TOWN.

To invoice, Feb. 25, 1859.....	909 86
Paid Superintendent's salary.....	275 00
" Perkins & Dickey for wood.....	15 00
	\$1199 86

Cr.

By invoice, Feb. 27, 1860.....	948 48
rec'd from County for paupers at Almshouse	184 49
tools &c. bought.....	28 00
Wood " .....	15 00
Building 19 rods of wall.....	14 25
Cash on hand.....	20 00
	\$1210 22

In favor of farm..... \$10 36

JONATHAN SAVORY, } Overseers  
 JOHN N. ANDERSON, } of  
 HORACE P. WATTS. } the Poor.

## LIQUOR AGENCY REPORT.

LONDONDERRY, Feb. 29, 1869.

TOWN OF LONDONDERRY,	TO ARLEY PLUMER,	DR.
to services as Liquor Agent.....	65 00	
to liquor bought for town.....	313 00	—
		\$378 00
Cr.		
By cash rec'd for liquor.....	320 00	
liquors on hand.....	58 00	—
		\$378 00
		ARLEY PLUMER, Agent.
- TOWN OF LONDONDERRY,		DR.
to West Parish note dated Sept. 1, 1853, inter-		
est paid to Sept. 1, 1859.....	140 00	
Samuel C. Barker's town order, interest paid		
to March 27, 1860.....	300 00	
outstanding orders of 1858-9.....	453 30	
" " 1859-60.....	1628 35	—
		\$2521 65
Cr.		
By balance in Treasury, Feb. 28, 1860.....	1609 62	—
		\$1609 62
Debt.....		912 03
Town house and Auburn road notes....		1619 69
Amount of debt.....		—
JONATHAN SAVORY, JOHN N. ANDERSON,	{	Selectmen of Londonderry.

# REPORT.

The Superintending School Committee respectfully submit the following report:—

## DISTRICT NO. ONE

SUMMER TERM.—Miss Sarah Hovey teacher. Miss Hovey labored with diligence, yet under some discouragements. She had, but the winter before, been a scholar in the same school and this being her first attempt at teaching, it could hardly be expected that good order could be maintained and the usual perplexities of the Schoolroom overcome with as much ease and judgment as by one who had spent a life time in teaching. Notwithstanding all drawbacks, several of the recitations at the examination were excellent, among them, a class in History and one in written Arithmetic.

The Register of the school was kept in a proper manner. So many of our Registers are returned with defects on every page, that the Committee are disposed to give credit where credit is due.

Miss Hovey says in her remarks: “The term has been somewhat longer than usual and the latter part has been considerably smaller than at the commencement. Some of the younger classes have not gone as far in their text books as they have in terms past, yet I think they have a fair understanding of what they have gone over.”

Ella Sanborn a little girl of six years was neither absent nor tardy during the term of 82 days.

WINTER TERM.—Mr. J. M. Whitaker of Dartmouth College, teacher. The Prudential Committee of this district was fortunate in securing the services of Mr. W. A school as large as this with limited accommodations, requires a teacher of more than ordinary ability. He should know how to keep order as a first requisite, and he should know how to despatch business.

With these qualifications and many more, Mr. Whitaker’s labors were highly successful. The exercises at the examination were of a high order. There was no failure in any of the recitations. All the classes exhibited thorough training. The Committee have no hesitation in saying that the first class in reading was the best trained class in town. In a school of such decided merit, it is a matter of regret, that no more attention had been paid to the important branch of writing. It is proper to state that the operations of this school were somewhat retarded by the illness of many of the pupils.

Frank P. Sanborn, Stephen G. Esty, Mary G. Sanborn, Lizzie F. Sanborn, and Susan Sanborn were neither absent nor tardy.

## DISTRICT NO. TWO.

The Summer term was taught by Miss Laura F. Marden of Windham. She taught this school last year, winning the love and respect of her pupils, by the mildness and firmness of her manner. At each visit of the Committee, they were gratified to observe on the part of the pupils, that cheerful and ready compliance with the rules of the school and that respectful deportment toward their teacher, which are essential elements in a well ordered school. It was sincerely regretted by the district and the Committee, that the school came to a premature close from the illness of the teacher. It is thought the classes had made good progress in each of their respective studies.

WINTER TERM.—Mr. Adin L. Steere, of Burrillville, R. I., teacher. This was Mr. Steere's first experience in teaching, and as he is quite young, fears were entertained that he might fail in order, but with a maturity of judgment, much beyond his years, he put the school under good discipline and maintained it to its close. With perhaps one exception, the order of this school was the best in town, No. 1 and 2 ranking highest in this respect. The Committee were happy to notice that the scholars were always attentive to study and respectful in their manner towards their teacher; while all the classes in the various branches made good progress, the attention that was paid to penmanship deserves especial notice. The Committee can say with truth, that much greater improvement was made in this usually neglected branch, than in any other school in town.

The school house in this district, has been tottering with age for several years, and its utter destitution of comfort and warmth has, without doubt added greatly to the large percentage of tardiness recorded during the past winter. The citizens of the district have just purchased and paid for a beautiful tract of land for a building spot, and it is expected that after taking breath a sufficient length of time, they will erect a new and commodious house and put the present thing out of misery.

## DISTRICT NO. THREE.

SUMMER TERM.—Miss Mary F. Cummings, teacher. Miss C. took much interest in the welfare of the pupils under her charge and as the result of this, a good degree of improvement was made. At the close of the school, it was apparent that the smaller classes had not been neglected. The order of the school was good and the recitations creditable. The room was very prettily trimmed and looked as well as such a melancholly old thing could look.

Christopher N. Holmes, William L. Gregg, Martha M. Scully, Mary J. Holmes, Frances A. Goodwin and A. M. Scully were neither absent nor tardy.

WINTER TERM.—Kibmall D. Sargent, teacher. In a short term of eight weeks, Mr. Sargent accomplished as much as could reasonably be expected. At the first visit of the Committee, the order was not quite as good as the interests of the school required, but much improvement was subsequently noticed in this respect. It is proper to say that the school had been in operation but two days when first visited. About a dozen of the citizens were present at the close of the school.

John Blood, John C. Scully and Christopher N. Holmes were neither absent nor tardy.

#### DISTRICT NO. FOUR.

The SUMMER TERM was taught by Miss Zoe A. Hills, of Windham. The Committee found here, nearly everything which contributes to a good school—good order, strong voices, constant attention and prompt recitations. The teacher possessed large experience, tact and energy. She understood and loved her duties and was faithful in their performance.

There were more than the usual number of good readers, some excellent ones in this school, although as a general thing, they read quite fast, and should be checked somewhat. It would not be too much to say that at the examination, classes in each branch, had made marked improvement, and in no one, was there a shadow of a failure.

The teacher remarks in her Register, as follows: "I feel grateful to the parents of the district for their kind co-operation with me during the past term, which has rendered the school much more easy and pleasant than it otherwise could have been."

The WINTER TERM was taught by Mr. R. C. Boutwelle who discharged his duties with a good degree of interest and succeeded in keeping an orderly school. Compared to its numbers, this school excels in Arithmetic, the most of those in town and comes fully up to the average in Geography. There was one good class in English Grammar well advanced, still we must be permitted to say, as in former years, there was not quite as much interest exhibited in that branch as would seem to be commensurate with the capacities of the scholars. All things considered, however, this continues to be one of our best schools.

Mary F. March and Albert H. March during both terms, and Frank Haywood, during the Winter, were neither absent nor tardy.

## DISTRICT NO. FIVE.

SUMMER TERM.—Miss Alma J. Farnham, of Concord, teacher, Evidently, Miss Farnham did not hold threatening language and wholesale flogging to constitute a regular daily exercise, best suited to preserve order and decorum in the school-room. Her measures were mild, accompanied with precept and example. Amiable in character, affable in her manners and winning in her address, she accomplished much more in her quiet, modest and systematic way, than many would have done with more apparent determination and sternness and a more severe application of the rod. The school gave a good account of itself at the close. Penmanship had not been neglected. Some neat specimens were shown. A class in English Grammar had made good improvement, and a class in the Fourth Reader surpassed in accuracy and distinctness, any other we remember to have heard in our summer schools.

Abby F. Greeley, Ellen F. Frost, Francella Kendall and Rachel H. Whittier were neither absent nor tardy.

The teacher very justly remarks in her Register, that “the greatest obstacle to improvement has been irregularity of attendance. A greater degree of interest must be awakened before the school can attain a high rank of scholarship.”

## DISTRICT NO. SIX.

Both terms of this school were taught by Miss Esther M. Goodwin. Miss G. is a teacher of some experience and in this school, has proved herself a successful one. Her discipline was mild and pleasant, but efficient. The school, though small, is a good one, and having been very judiciously managed for the two last terms, will compare favorably with any school in town. Although no branch had been neglected, Colburn’s Arithmetic had received especial attention, and at the examination, there was not a problem in the book that the class could not solve. The class in Penmanship, for the neatness of their books, (as no “odious blots” were seen,) deserves much praise.

Ida J. Mullins, Ella S. Mullins and Frank P. Marsh in both summer and winter, and Mary Ellen Corning, Frank H. Watts, William H. Vickery, Norton E. Mullins, Horace C. Boyce, Henry E. Hall and Joseph L. Goodwin in the winter term, are reported as not absent one day during the winter term of fourteen weeks.

## DISTRICT NO. SEVEN.

Teacher, Miss Mary J. Reid. This school also had one teacher, through the summer and winter terms. The examination of the school at the close of the summer term, convinced the Committee, that Miss Reid had been diligent in the performance of her whole duty to the pupils in her charge, by the manifest improvement of the scholars in the several branches taught. The stillness of the school at the examination, demonstrated that the order was all that could be desired, and no one who was there at that time will hardly question that the following 26 scholars reported by the teacher had not whispered during the term : Georgianna Spinney, Josephine Flanders, Clara Flanders, Julia Spinney, Mary Barker, Laura Furber, Anna Pettingill, Emma Poor, Ellen Spinney, Laura Rowell, Hattie Foster, Ella Smith, Elvira Page, Clara Rowell, David Barker, Lewis Furber, Herbert Foster, Oscar Furber, Frank Furber, Clarence Garvin, George Pettingill, Irving Page, William Page, Irving Rowell, Moses Sawyer and Eugene Spinnney.

Clara Rowell, Laura Furber, Anna Pettingill, Oscar Furber, Emery Chase and George Pettingill were neither absent nor tardy.

The winter term is in session at the time of writing this report, and it is hoped the school may terminate acceptably to the district. George Pettingill, Oscar Furber and Lewis Furber are reported as not being absent nor tardy up to the present time, and Hattie Foster, Laura Furber, Mary Barker, Henry Young, Frank Furber, Oscar Furber, David Barker, Irving Page and Rachel Young, as not having whispered.

## DISTRICT NO. EIGHT.

SUMMER TERM.—Miss Mary W. Griffin, teacher. This was Miss G.'s second term in the same school. It will be seen that there was a considerably larger average attendance here than in any other summer school in town. The school was more advanced; contained a larger number of classes and more text-books in the higher branches. The exercises ranged from the A. B. C. of the alphabet to the higher mathematics. Of course it will be admitted that the labors of a teacher in such a school, in order to meet the wants of all classes, ages, grades and conditions, must be extremely arduous and incessant. But shrinking from no task, and possessing unrivaled skill in imparting instruction, much, even, not contained in text-books, aided by the conveniences of an excellent school-room, Miss Griffin did not fail to do justice to each and every class, and accomplish an unusual amount of permanent good.

The teacher says in her report: "That cardinal virtue punctuality has been cultivated during the past term by several members of the school. Augusta W. Blodgett, Celestia Blodgett, Clara J. Barker, Mary A. Barker, Mary E. Hamlet, Francena McGregor, Harriet McGregor, Hannah Morse, Josie Noyes, Martha Noyes, Alice M. Whidden, Frank J. Boyce, George Noyes, James M. Noyes (3 years of age) and D. Brewster McGregor, have been neither absent nor tardy."

The winter school was taught by Mr. L. Gilbert Chase, of Dartmouth College. The same circumstances that existed in the summer contributed in the winter to swell the amount of the teacher's labors. But Mr. Chase did not seek to avoid toil and hardship in the school-room, if thereby he might add a single new idea to those already possessed by his intelligent pupils. We believe his efforts were well directed and amply rewarded, in giving to all abundant satisfaction. This, as we have previously said, is the most advanced school in town, and among the many excellent classes out on examination, the first class in written arithmetic is without anything like a rival in town. The readiness and accuracy with which the examples were performed on the blackboard would be creditable to the members of any high school or academy. As an evidence of their interest in the cause of education, a large number were present at the close of each term.

John A. Atwood, Frank J. Boyce, John Dow, Willie Clark, Charles H. Noyes, Clara J. Barker, Mary A. Barker and Abbie J. Noyes, were neither absent nor tardy, and Rhoda Ann Barker, Mary F. Boyce, Clara J. Barker, Francena McGregor, Georgianna Hill, Abbie J. Noyes, William Clark, John A. Atwood, Frank Boyce, John Dow and B. W. Sargent had not whispered during the term.

#### DISTRICT NO. NINE.

During both summer and winter terms this school was under the care of Miss Helen M. Weeks, of Hooksett. The summer school was composed of a very limited number of small scholars; consequently the most desirable indications of life and ambition were dubious. A teacher must be possessed of exceedingly buoyant spirits to make it deeply interesting to herself and create a high degree of enthusiasm on the part the pupils in a school of a dozen or fifteen where none are so advanced as to study English Grammar, and but one in written arithmetic.

The winter term was somewhat larger, more advanced, and showed more unmistakable signs of life. Some of the recitations were good at the close of each term, and there was evidently very fair

improvement. The teacher seemed to have labored, and with much success, to keep an orderly, quiet, and well disciplined school. Daniel and Walter Wilkins, and George Wilson, were neither absent nor tardy during the winter term.

#### DISTRICT NO. TEN. (*Part of No. 3, Derry.*)

Both terms of this school were taught by Miss Orpah L. Clark. As usual, the scholars seem to have been remarkably regular in their attendance. Ellen H. Pond, Isaac McGregor and Henry McGregor in both terms, and Frank McGregor and John H. Pond, during the summer term were neither absent nor tardy.

#### DISTRICT NO. ELEVEN.

Miss Mary J. Smith taught the summer school. The able manner in which the school was conducted was conclusive evidence that she possessed those qualities of mind which may render her a successful teacher. It is to be regretted that the attendance was not as good as might be desired on account of an epidemic disease then prevalent in the district. At each visit of the committee they were convinced that not only "book learning," but a practical knowledge of little things not found in text-books, had not been neglected. The examination of the school reflected much credit upon the pupils and their faithful instructress. None are reported as neither absent or tardy but Ella J. Watts, a little girl 3 years old, was not absent a day during the term of 12 weeks.

The winter school was in charge of Mr. George W. Rogers of Manchester. The school closed after a session of about ten weeks, without any notice having been extended to the committee, consequently there was no examination and no report of its progress can be made. Phineas W. Dickey and Winfield S. Dickey were neither absent nor tardy.

## GENERAL REMARKS.

It will naturally be asked by the thinking portion of the community, what is the comparative condition of our schools, and what is needed to increase their usefulness? We reply that we believe our schools are not generally in a *retrograde* condition, notwithstanding the "fogyism" that would ridicule every possible improvement thought to be made in this day of progress in books, apparatus, and methods of instruction. They are certainly *no less* advanced in the arts and sciences than they were years ago. There are those who tell us that our schools are less efficient, or at least they are no better, at the present time when we raise for their benefit thirteen hundred dollars, than when we appropriated but five or six hundred. Hence what a deplorable waste of money! But we do not grant it. The man who makes these and kindred assertions, and adopts this method of reasoning, is not the man who has a personal knowledge of our schools—not the man who visited them in former years, or who visits them now. He is not the man who takes the deepest interest in the cause of education—not the first to contribute a few dollars in money or board to lengthen out, benefit or sustain the school. He is not the one who is foremost in making the acquaintance of the new teacher, lending his sympathies to cheer, encourage and sustain him, a stranger among strangers. His shadow is never allowed to darken the doors of the school-room, except to vote against some paltry appropriation. When some improvement is proposed, and dollars are mentioned, he is *poor*, and when the newly employed master or mistress is pointed out to him he only looks upon him or her as some "newlight" whose only object is to filch money from his own and his neighbors pockets. He will not only growl like the dog in the manger, but he will repel others who would otherwise exercise a respectable share of liberality.

Let us illustrate. We have had a school in town the pastwinter of 71 scholars, amongst whom there were 16 over 15 years of age, but none we believe over 21. From that number we could select a class of respectable size, whose attainments in all the common branches would compare favorably with those of the average of our teachers. Will any one pretend to say that such might have been the case thirty years ago? Could there have been found a school in the year of our Lord 1830 within the town where forty per cent. of the scholars had made any pretensions, even, to the study of English Grammar, and more than fifty per cent. made Geography a

regular and systematic study? a large minority of these able to sustain a somewhat thorough critical examination in either branch. We think the most arrant grumbler will not have the hardihood to answer in the affirmative. Now if this illustrates anything, it is the fact that our schools sustain a higher standing, possess greater intrinsic worth, and accomplish much more for the growth, expansion and development of the youthful mind than they did at that time; and that consequently the increased amount of money expended is not squandered for a useless purpose. But, on the other hand, it does not follow that our schools are yet patterns of excellence, or perfection, or that they are accomplishing what such an institution might reasonably be expected to do. Hence the question arises, what is needed and what may be done to increase their usefulness? We honestly believe if each one who has the care of children in town would sincerely ask this question to themselves, and answer it conscientiously, it would do much to bring about the desired object.

After supposing each school-house in town to be just what it ought to be, well warmed, pleasantly situated, and comfortable in every respect, which is far from being the case, we greatly need a more regular attendance of those who are more directly to reap the benefits. This matter has been often spoken of, and may be considered somewhat stale, but the magnitude of the evil and the fact that it has not diminished in the least during the past year, but rather increased in some districts, seem to call for a renewed expression of warning on the part of the committee. We do not believe that parents are at all aware of how much valuable time is lost to their children from this source. No person can justly estimate it unless he examine our twenty registers. Here it will be seen that large aggregates of non-attendance and tardiness run up with fearful rapidity. The following table carefully arranged from the registers will assist parents in forming an opinion at a glance of the amount of loss sustained in consequence of the evil alluded to:

## ATTENDANCE.

Districts.	Whole No. in Summer.	Average No. in Summer.	Per cent. of attendance.	Whole No. in Winter.	Average No. in Winter.	Per cent. of attendance.	Per cent. for year.	Instances of tardiness.
1	69	45	65	56	41	73	69	305
2	45	38	84	50	41	82	83	513
3	34	29	85	37	28	76	80	319
4	39	33	85	37	30	81	83	430
5	36	27	75	38	32	84	79	98
6	14	13	93	23	22	95	94	153
7	34	30	88	39	33	84	86	27
8	67	54	80	71	56	79	80	207
9	20	14	70	25	14	56	62	186
10	8			9				
11	15	14	93	16	13	81	87	187

Per Centage of attendance for the year, ..... 80  
 " " of non-attendance for the year, ..... 20

There were 497 pupils belonging to our schools, and 20 per cent of this number amounts to about 100, showing a loss of school benefits, though distributed among all our pupils, equivalent to the non-attendance of the same number for the year. This is a much larger percentage of loss than is due to sickness and all other proper causes combined. Take another view of the subject. The town appropriated thirteen hundred and six dollars for schools. If now we should throw away the same per cent. of hard earned *money* that we do of time, we shall find that we waste \$261.20, or more than we expend for four of our smaller schools! Again, we need in several instances better teachers. True, we have found few who were wanting in good purposes, yet some failed in discipline, some in method and some in scholarship, while another class were largely deficient in the faculty of dispatching business with animation, and making everything exciting and interesting to the pupils. Give us, by all means, the instructor who furnishes lessons of moderate length and insists sternly that they be thoroughly understood before reciting, so that every question may be answered with life and vigor, giving room, perhaps, for a few practical ideas and sugges-

tions from the intelligent teacher. Then the hour of recitation will be one of joy and delight to the pupil, rather than one of forced repetition and dull formality.

We are glad to say there has been a marked reform in the manner of recitation for a year or two past, in discarding the new-fangled, unfair and erroneous method of concert answering, and falling back on the good old way of testing each scholar's individual capacity.

One of our teachers remarks, "We have quite a number of visits to record, made by citizens and others, but we think a fault exists here, as elsewhere, of visiting the school *only* at the close of the term." We consider this implied suggestion exceedingly pertinent and timely. While a record is made in the same school of forty visits, we believe not over five were made by citizens of the district until the examination at the close of the term. In other districts the visits were made *wholly* at the close. To be sure, it is a matter of much congratulation that parents are becoming interested to that degree, that they may be seen in the school room at all, and we would by all means encourage, if it be but a single visit, but we respectfully submit whether it would not be an encouragement to the school, and add greatly to their own and to their teacher's satisfaction, to drop in at some time during the term, and then compare notes at the end.

We would not omit to mention that three new sets of Fowle's Outline Maps have been purchased the past season for the school rooms in districts No. 4, 8 and 11. Much credit is due to the respective teachers in those districts, Misses Hills, Griffin and Smith, for their kind and timely efforts, and to the scholars for their worthy contributions in procuring them. Will the six districts that are yet without them give the matter a serious thought.

Your committee have thought proper to make a slight change in regard to text books, during the past winter. Webster's Spelling Book has given place to Worcester's, and Colton and Fitch's series of Geographies have been introduced in place of Cornell's Primary, and Mitchell's intermediate. We believe both have been universally acceptable, being used to the exclusion of all others, in nearly every school in town.

It has been well said that the true secret of the rapid and thorough acquisition of all knowledge lay in learning one thing at a time. We wish it could be more fully understood and practiced in our schools. We have often regretted to notice the impatient and reckless haste with which scholars have rushed from branch to branch, before becoming complete masters of anything as they went along. Such generally soar with great velocity until they alight somewhere in the region of the higher branches, so called, little dreaming that they can neither advance nor go backward with comfort or honor, and that

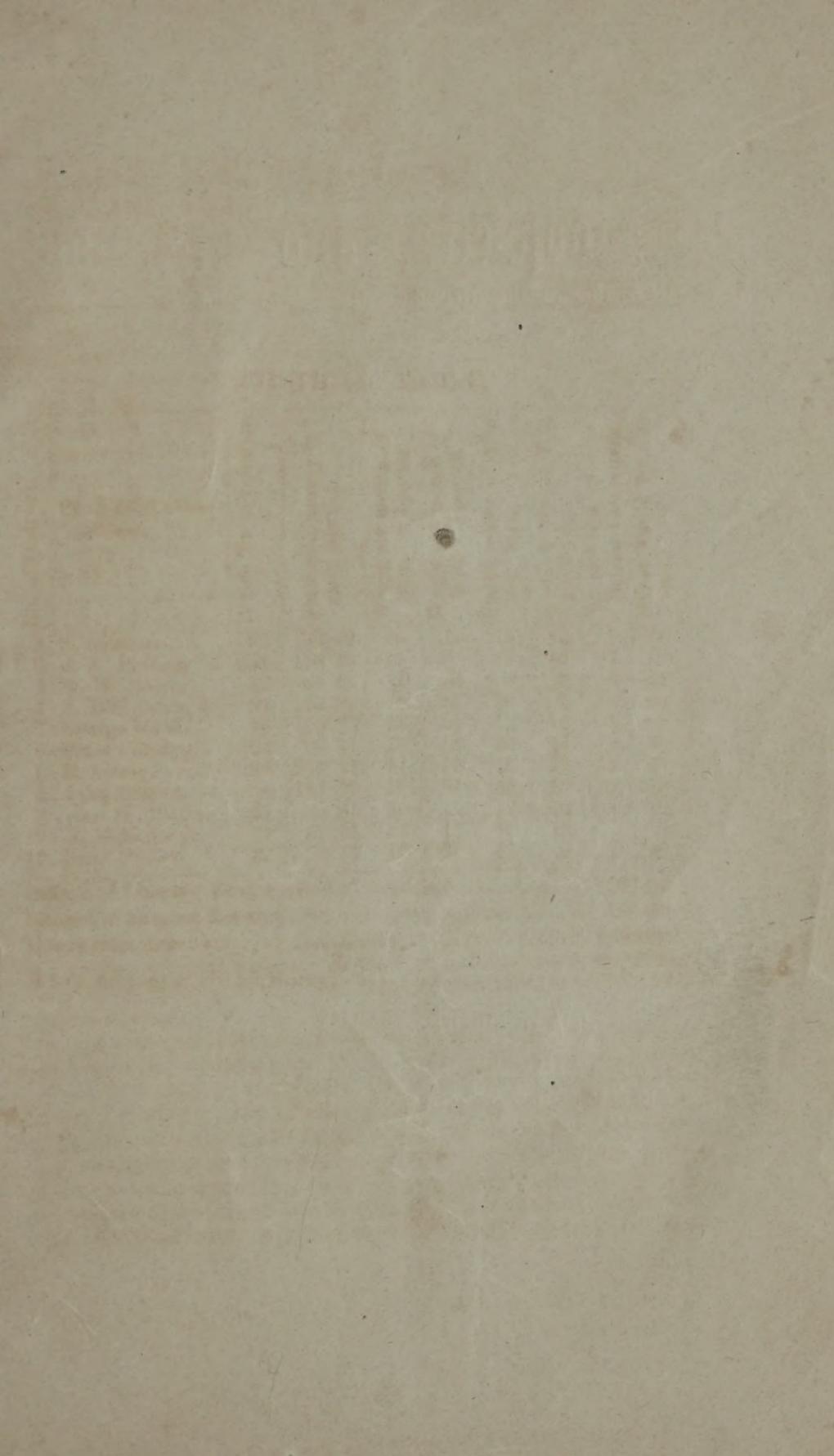
the position of some of those who are plodding along with slower but more certain steps, is far more enviable than theirs. And this danger of adopting the skimming process is one reason why we beg leave to enter our protest against the wholesale introduction into our schools of those studies which are adapted *only* to the capacities of those who have really mastered the fundamental branches positively required by law, to be taught. The common school was never designed to take the place of the high school or the academy, and although there may be instances where some of the higher branches may with propriety be allowed, yet if they are permitted to any great extent, the elementary branches must necessarily be neglected or crushed out, and our scholars left to grow up mere skeletons in intellect without life, or shadow without the substance. We know of but two remedies for such a state of things. One is the absolute exercise of authority on the part of the committee, the other, by far the most judicious, in our opinion, is the establishment of a public high school in town, to be kept in session one or two terms in the year, which would of course, draw off that portion of our scholars who should have previously become masters of the common branches, giving them greatly superior advantages over any which can possibly be afforded under the present arrangement, and at the same time clear our common schools of an evil which must continue to increase in proportion as they become more advanced. We will not enlarge further upon this important topic, but leave it to the judgment of those intelligent citizens who are sufficiently interested in the cause of education to make it a matter of thought and consideration.

JOHN DICKEY,  
ROBERT C. MACK,  
W. J. CAMPBELL, } S. S. Committee  
of  
Londonderry.

March, 1860.

## STATISTICAL TABLE.





WILLIAM H. FISK,  
Bookseller and Stationer,

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LONDONDERRY, N. H.,

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FISK'S BOOKSTORE,

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